

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the title of the invention as follows:

MEMBRANE ELECTRODE ASSEMBLY, METHOD FOR PRODUCING THE SAME AND
~~POLYMER~~ POLYMER ELECTROLYTE FUEL CELL

Please insert the following new paragraph after the Title and before the "Technical Field":

-- Related Applications

This application is the U.S. National Phase under 35 U.S.C. § 371 of International Application No. PCT/JP2005/017503, filed on September 22, 2005, which in turn claims the benefit of Japanese Application No. 2004-304074, filed on October 19, 2004, the disclosures of which Applications are incorporated by reference herein. —

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 24 at line 22 and bridging page 25 as follows:

Preferred type of weave is plain weave, but it can be twill weave, sateen or any other type of weave. In the production, thicker thread having a larger thread diameter $[[D_B]]$ $\underline{D_A}$ should be used for the center portion 23, and thinner thread having a smaller thread diameter $[[D_A]]$ $\underline{D_B}$ should be used for the peripheral portion 22, whereby a fibrous substrate whose peripheral portion 22 is thinner $[[()]]$ than the center portion $[[()]]$ can be formed.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 44 at line 3 as follows:

The ~~woven fabric~~ paper was then heated at 900°C in a nitrogen atmosphere for carbonization, and then heated at 2000°C in an argon atmosphere for graphitization. Thereafter, the peripheral portion 52 (with a width of 5 mm) was oil hydraulically pressed at a pressure of 100 kg/cm² at room temperature. Thereby, a fibrous substrate according to the third embodiment

of the present invention was produced. The ratio T_B/T_A between thickness T_A of the center portion and thickness T_B of the peripheral portion, and the variation (difference between the maximum and minimum values) of the thickness T_B were measured in the same manner as in Example 1, the result of which is shown in Table 1. Further, using the fibrous substrate, a polymer electrolyte fuel cell comprising a single unit cell was produced in the same manner as in Example 1. The fuel cell was then subjected to the cell test. The result of the cell test is shown in FIG. 7.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 46 at line 13 as follows:

The amount of the water repellent in the peripheral portion 62 of the ~~paper~~ woven fabric having subjected to the second water repellent treatment was calculated based on the weight of the woven fabric before the immersion and that after the immersion. It was found that the amount of the water repellent added was equal to 5 wt% of the woven fabric before the second water repellent treatment. In other words, the water repellent was added to the peripheral portion 62 in an amount equal to 15 wt% of the peripheral portion before the first and second water repellent treatments.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 46 at line 23 and bridging page 47 as follows:

After the water repellent treatments, the woven fabric was pressed. In the pressing, the peripheral portion ~~[[52]]~~ 62 (with a width of 5 mm) was hydraulically pressed at a pressure of 50 kg/cm² at room temperature. Thereby, a fibrous substrate according to the fourth embodiment of the present invention was produced.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 48 at line 6 as follows:

A first water repellent treatment liquid was first prepared in the same manner as in Example 5. The above-mentioned paper was immersed in the first water repellent treatment liquid at room temperature in an atmosphere for one minute. After one minute, the ~~woven-fabric~~ paper was taken out from the liquid, which was then baked at 350°C for three hours to remove water and surfactant. The amount of the water repellent in the paper having subjected to the first water repellent treatment was calculated based on the weight of the woven fabric before the immersion and that after the immersion. It was found that the amount of the water repellent added was equal to 12 wt% of the ~~woven-fabric~~ paper before the first water repellent treatment.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 49 at line 9 as follows:

After the water repellent treatments, the paper was pressed. In the pressing, the peripheral portion ~~[[52]]~~ 62 (with a width of 5 mm) was oil hydraulically pressed at a pressure of 50 kg/cm² at room temperature. Thereby, a fibrous substrate according to the fourth embodiment of the present invention was produced.

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 52 at line 10 as follows:

Only the peripheral portion (with a width of 5 mm) of a commercially available paper (TGP-H-120 manufactured by Toray Industries. Inc., a 6 cm square paper with a thickness of 360 μm) was hydraulically pressed at room temperature. The pressing pressure was set to 50 kg/cm². The ~~woven-fabric~~ paper had already been carbonized and graphitized before the pressing.